Branches, e.p. Administration, Logistics, Accounts, Education and Meteorological Branches of the Air Force has also been approved by the Government. A proposal for similar induction of women into certain branches of the Army is also under consideration.

National Security Council

@3141. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have abandoned the plan to set up the National Security Council; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The National Security Council was set up vide Cabinet Secretariat Resolution dated 24th August, 1990. Certain supporting structures were also required to be created. The Government is reviewing whether the proposed structures are required to be made functional in their present form.

Infiltration of Pakistani Intruders

@@3142. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Pakistani intruders were found in Indian waters near Lakshdeep Islands in the early last month;

(b) if so, whether Government have established their antecedents and the action contemplated taken against them; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check infiltration of Pakistani agents through sea in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) On the 9th November, 1991, the Coast Guard apprehended three Pakistani fishing trawlers poaching in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone off the Lakshadeep Islands. The three trawlers and the crew of 45 members have been handed over by the Coast Guard to the Police authorities at New Mangalore, Karnataka, for prosecution undetr the Maritime Zones of India Act 1981.

(c) The Indian Navy/Coast Guard maintain continuous vigil along the Indian coastline in Order to check illegal activities including infiltration by foreign vessels/foreigners.

Construction of roads by border roads organisation in north eastern states

@@3143. SHRI KHYOMOLOTHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of roads taken up by the Border Road Organisation in the North Eastern States;

(b) what is the reason for discontinuing the construction work of the Foot Hill Road from Dimapur to Naginamara via Merapani in Nagaland;

(c) whether this Foot Hill Road construction work will be transferred to Nagaland State Works and Housing Department; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Border Roads Development Board has taken up construction / maintenance of road for different organisations as per details given below:—

1.	*Border Roads Development Board Roads* Roads of operational importance to Army	4599 Kms.
2.	*Agency Roads* Roads of economic importance and Inter-State roads sponsored by North Eastern Council	2744 Kms.
3.	*National Highways*	1773 Kms.
4.	*Border roads along the Indo-Bangladesh border*	932 Kms.
5.	*Other roads*	585 Kms.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1961, transferred from the 11th December, 1991.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1965, transferred from 11th December, 1991.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 2581, transferred from the 16th December, 1991.

(b) and (s) The work on this road had to be discontinued due to objection raised by the Government of Assam in view of their border dispute with the Government of Nagaland, as also for want of environmental clearance. No proposal has been received to transfer the work to the Nagaland Works and Housing Department.

Strengthening/Modernisation of Armed

3144. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to strengthen and modernise Indian Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the details of specific steps taken so far or proposed to be taken by Government during the Eighth Plan in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The strengthening/modernisation of the Armed Forces is an ongoing process, which shall be continued during the Eighth Plan as well.

It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge the specific details of such efforts.

Development/Expansion of Defence Industries

3145. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence industries in the country need further development and expansion;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government so far in that direction;

(c) whether any programme has been drawn up for Eighth Five Year Plan for the growth and expansion of defence units in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The need for further development/expansion of the defence industries in the country is examined from time to time, based on the requirements of the Armed Forces. This process will be continued in the Eighth Five Year Plan as well.

In the Ordnance Factories sanctioned projects costing of Rs. 1500 crores are under various stages of implementation.

Talks between India and Pakistan on violations of line of actual control

3146. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held between Indian and Pakistani Military Delegations in September, 1991, regarding frequent violations of line of actual control in Kashmir and implementation of the agreements on air space violations and mutual confidence building measures;

(b) if so, the precise subjects considered at the talks; and

(c) what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A Defence delegation visited Pakistan from the 24th to 27th September, 91. During the talks, the situation among with Line of Control/International Border was reviewed and measures to carry the Confidence Building process further were discussed. Agreements were also reached in principle on:

(i) Re-activation of the existing telephone links between Baramula-Murree and Rajouri-Jhelum for use by the concerned Sector Commanders whenever necessary.

(ii) Establishment of communication links between the Air Force and Navies of the two countries.

(iii) Enhancing interaction and exchanges including through participation in seminars organised by respective Institutes of Startegic Studies, exchange of sports teams etc.